TION (SHRI ARIF MOHD. KHAN): (a) to (c) Indian Airlines has a full time but acting Chairman-cum-Managing Director. Public Enterprises Selection Board's recommendation for a regular incumbent are being processed.

Combating AIDS

*97. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that according to a W.H.O. report, the country is likely to have about 60,000 AIDS cases over the next five years and that the cities of Bombay and Madras would be the worst hit with AIDS cases;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof stating:—

(i) the percentage of rise in AIDS cases in the country during 1989 and 1990 (till date).

(ii) the cities in the country which have reported maximum number of AIDS cases so far (with figures); and

(c) what strategy has been formulated by Government to effectively check AIDS cases in the country stating the nature of the Central assistance given/proposed to be given to the State Governments to fight the disease?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI RASHEED MASOOD): (a) to (c) There is no such report from WHO. However, an official of WHO Head Quarters, Geneva, has projected these figures in his letter to Director General, Indian Council of Medical Research. The basis on which the projections have been made are being ascertained.

The percentage of rise in AIDS cases in the country during 1989 and 1990 (till date) is as under:—

	June, 1989	June, 1990	Percentage of increase
Number of Full Blown AIDS cases	29	48	65%

Bombay and Madras have reported a relatively larger number of full blown AIDS cases. 19 cases (including 6 foreigners) have been reported in Bombay and 6 cases in Madras.

Government of India has drawn up a Medium Term Plan for prevention of AIDS. In the Medium Term Plan it has been decided to strengthen the existing facilities for treatment of AIDS infected patients in ten Medical Colleges and Hospitals in the country. The expansion of the facilities include:

— providing clinical care to patients with HIV infection;

— providing counselling to the patients and their spouses/relatives;;

— providing continuous medical care at the O.P.Ds.

— collecting data on clinical profile, immunological profile, opportunistic infections and other manifestations of HIV infection;

— providing training facilities to medical and paramedical personnel in the management of HIV patients.

The Government of India during the year 1989-90, has released grants to the State Governments of Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, West Bengal, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Punjab, Jammu & Kashmir, Orissa, Karnataka, Kerala, Manipur and Goa, and to the AIIMS, New Delhi for opening AIDS Units for clinical management of AIDS/HIV infected cases, under the National AIDS Control Programme. In addition readers and kits

are being supplied to 41 surveillance centres and 28 zonal Blood Testing Centres.

Post retirement medical facilities to employees of NTPC

*98. SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR:
SHRIMATI MANORAMA PANDEY:

Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Thermal Power Corporation has formulated a contributory scheme for post retirement medical facilities;

(b) if so, whether it is a fact that the same is being made applicable to those employees only who retired from the service of the NTPC on or after the 1st January, 1986;

(c) if so, what are the reasons for fixing the date; and

(d) what is the total number of employees of NTPC who retired from NTPC before the 1st January, 1986 and are being denied the benefit of the new scheme?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ARIF MOHD. KHAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The Board of Directors of the Corporation while approving the scheme resolved that the scheme would be effective from 1.1.1986, the date from which gratuity ceiling is enhanced by the Government.

(d) Seventy five employees in various categories retired before 1.1.1986 who may not be fulfilling the eligibility criterion.

Setting up of national commission on Bhopal gas tragedy

*99. SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether several organisations working among the Bhopal gas victims have demanded the setting up of a National Commission on Bhopal gas tragedy for proper implementation of the action plan for mitigating the suffering of the disaster victims; and

(b) if so, what is the reactions of the Central Government thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY): (a) and (b) Government are aware that certain organisation of Bhopal Gas Victims have demanded the setting up of a National Commission on Bhopal and have taken note of the suggestions.

Proposal for increased utilisation of gas for industrial purposes in Tripura

*100. SHRI NARAYAN KAR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 600 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 19th March, 1990 and state:

(a) whether Government are aware that Tripura and Bangladesh have common gas zone and Bangladesh is about to commence exploration of gas;

(b) whether Government have any proposal to increase the quantum of utilisation of gas by using the same for industrial purpose; and

(c) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY): (a) No, Sir. The gas discoveries made so far in Tripura and Bangladesh are in different stratigraphic levels and have no common gas zone between them.

(b) and (c) Natural gas is being to the following gas based power projects in the State of Tripura:—

(i) Baramura Power Plant — 0.13 MMCMD

(ii) Rokhia Power Plant — 0.05 MMCMD